

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-29 are pending in this application. Claims 1-11 are canceled without prejudice and new claims 20-29 are presented for examination. Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,802,296 to Morse et al. (herein "Morse"), U.S. patent 5,956,028 to Matsui et al. (herein "Matsui"), and further in view of U.S. patent 6,377,263 to Falacara et al. (herein "Falacara"). Claims 12-19 are allowed.

Initially, applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of the allowance of claims 12-19.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1-11, that rejection is obviated by the present response as claims 1-11 are canceled by the present response.

The present response also sets forth new claims 20-29 for examination. Those new claims 20-29 have been written based on allowed claims 12-19, and thus are believed to also recite allowable subject matter. More specifically, new claims 20-27 correspond to claims 12-19 except that new claims 20-27 are directed to a "computer readable medium". However, those claims are believed to recite patentable features similarly as in respective claims 12-19.

Further, new independent claims 28 and 29 correspond to allowed claims 17 and 18, but without reciting limitations in "means plus function" format. However, new claims 28 and 29 are also believed to recite allowable subject matter.

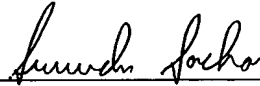
In such ways, each of new claims 20-29 is also believed to be allowable.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number
22850



Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220

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